DISNEY MAY FILM UTAH'S INDIANS

The Disney Studios of Hollywood have shown an interest in filming an educational picture on Utah Indians, and Edwin L. Verity, unit production manager, has asked the Utah Dept. of Publicity and Industrial Development for complete information relative to the Indians on the Uintah-Ouray reservation near Roosevelt, Utah.

A visit to the big reservation headquarters at Fort Duchesne revealed the fact that there are 1500 Indians in eastern Utah and that they are of the Ute tribes. They were moved into eastern Utah many years ago and today represent three bands: The Utes from the Spanish Fork area, the Uintahs from eastern Utah, and the Uncompahgres from Colorado.

The two big events of the Indian year are the Bear Dance in April and the Sun Dance in July or August. Of these events, the Sun Dance holds the spotlight, for it is a religious dance of cleansing wherein dancers go without food or water for three days, all the while dancing to the sun to achieve a blessing of improved health. Both dances can be seen by White people, but any photographic activities at the Sun Dance are strictly prohibited. It may be, however, that the Disney people can overcome this objection by the proper approach to the Tribal council. An educational film explaining the habits, manners and customs of the Utah Indians would certainly find interested audiences wherever shown and would result in creating considerable tourist interest to eastern Utah.